



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/096,684	06/12/1998	ROBERT C. FRAME	17659-016	2086

7590 01/03/2002

Fletcher, Yoder & Van Someren
P. O. Box 692289
Houston,, TX 77269-2289

EXAMINER

LAO, LUN YI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2673

DATE MAILED: 01/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

M

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Paper No. 21

Application Number: 09/096,684
Filing Date: June 12, 1998
Appellant(s):

Michael G. Fletcher
For Appellant

MAILED
JAN 03 2002
Technology Center 2600

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to appellant's brief on appeal filed on December 6, 2001.

(1) *Real Party in Interest*

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences*

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

3) *Status of Claims*

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

4) *Status of Amendments After Final*

The amendment after final rejection filed on July 5, 2001 has not been entered.

(5) *Summary of Invention*

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) *Issues*

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7) *Grouping of Claims*

Appellant's brief includes a statement that independent claims 1, 13, 21, 30, 36, 41, 45, 50 will stand or fall separately with their respective dependent claims and claims 7 and 25 will stand or fall separately and provides reasons as set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) and (c)(8).

(8) *Claims Appealed*

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(9) *Prior Art of Record*

<i>NUMBER</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>FILING DATE</i>
5,148,155	Martin et al	09/15/92	
5,375,076	Goodrich et al	12/20/94	
5,522,089	Kikinis et al	05/28/96	
5,608,449	Swafford, Jr. et al	03/04/97	

(10) *Grounds of Rejection*

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

I. Claims 1- 6, 8-24 and 26-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikinis et al(5,522,089) in view of Goodrich et al(5,375,076) and Swafford, Jr. et al(5,608,449).

As to claims 1-4, 11, 13, 21, 30 and 35-55, Kikinis et al teach a portable computer system(see figure 5) comprising battery connector(15)(see figures 3, 6 and column 6, lines 55-65); a portable base computer(172) having a wireless receiver(see figures 5, column 1, lines 49-

58; column 5, lines 36-40 and column 17, lines 6-10); a processor(24) having a data input operatively connected to the wireless receiver and having a power input(see figures 5-6; column 3, lines 41-44 and column 10, lines 59-66); mass storage(28 or 62)(see figures 5-6 and column 10, lines 59-66) and a wireless transmitter(see column 1, lines 49-58; column 5, lines 36-40 and column 17, lines 6-10); and a portable user interface module(10) having a wireless receiver(94) see figures 1A, 1B, 13; column 1, lines 49-58; column 16, lines 60-68; column 17, lines 1-10 and column 18, lines 32-36); a display(25) for displaying information having a data input connected to the wireless receiver(94) and having a power input connected to one of the battery connectors(15)(see figures 1A, 1B, 3, 6, 13; column 7, lines 41-50; column 1, lines 49-58; column 16, lines 60-68; column 17, lines 1-10 and column 18, lines 32-36); a user interface device(16)(see figures 1A, 1B, 3 and column 7, lines 46-50) and a wireless transmitter(94)(see figure 13; column 1, lines 49-58; column 16, lines 60-68 and column 17, lines 1-10).

Kikinis et al fail to disclose a processor connected to a battery and a processor-less portable user interface.

Goodrich et al teach a processor(portable computer) connected to a battery(see column 1, lines 13-21). It would have been obvious to have modified Kikinis et al with the teaching of Goodrich et al, since a battery can be easily removed for periodic replacement(see Kikinis's column 6, lines 64-65).

Swafford, Jr. et al teach a computer system comprising a processor-less portable user interface(2)(see figures 1-3; column 2, lines 1-6 and column 7, lines 31-47). It would have been obvious to have modified Kikinis et al as modified with the teaching of Swafford, Jr. et al since the processor for controlling an interface unit(2) can be located in a base

unit(14)(Swafford, Jr.'s column 7, lines 31-47), since Kikinis et al teach a user interface module(10) could be a processor-less portable user interface(slave unit) when it docked to a host unit(see figures 3, 5, 13 and column 6, lines 32-38), so as to simplify the user interface.

As to claims 13, 30, 36, 41-43 45, 47, 48 and 50-52, Swafford, Jr. et al teach a base unit(14) does not have a display device and an input device(see figures 1-3 and column 5, lines 5-16). It would have been obvious to have modified Kikinis et al as modified with the teaching of Swafford, Jr. et al, so as to simplify the base unit by eliminating a display and an input device in a base unit.

As to claims 2, 14, 22, 33 and 37, Kikinis et al teach a portable computer system comprising a mechanical connector to hold the base computer(172) in contact with the user interface module(10)(see figures 1A, 5, 6; column 5, lines 1-40).

As to claims 3, 15, 23, 33 and 37, Kikinis et al teach a portable computer system comprising an electrical connector(105) for electrically connecting the base computer(172) to the user interface module(10)(see figures 1A, 5, 6; column 5, lines 1-40; column 9, lines 40-43 and column 11, lines 3-40).

As to claims 4 and 16, Kikinis et al teach an electrical connector(14) to bypass the wireless transmitters and receivers(94)(see figures 5, 6, 13; column 11, lines 3-9 and column 16, lines 60-64).

As to claims 5, 9, 17, 27 and 28, Kikinis et al teach the user interface module(10) can display a pointing device(18) and a window(72)(see figures 1B, 4; column 5, lines 54-63 and column 8, lines 13-68).

As to claims 6 and 18, Kikinis et al teach a portable computer system comprising a local

are network(see column 17, lines 6-10).

As to claims 8 and 26, Kikinis et al teach a portable computer comprising a keyboard(see figure 4; column 8, lines 25-42 and column 19, lines 56-64).

As to claims 10, 19, 29, 32 and 34, it would have been obvious to have the user interface device(10) with the same size as portable base computer(172) since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art In re Rose, 105 USPQ 237(CCPA 1955).

As to claims 12, 20 and 21, Kikinis et al teach an user interface module comprising obstacle-tolerant wireless transmitter and receiver(IR communication)(see figure 13; column 1, lines 49-58 and column 17, lines 6-10).

As to claim 31, Goodrich et al teach a portable user interface is about nine pounds(see column 1, lines 20-23).

II. Claims 7 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikinis et al(5,522,089) in view of Goodrich et al(5,375,076) and Martin et al(5,148,155).

Kikinis et al fail to disclose a portable interface device comprising a 640X480 display.

Martin et al teach a portable computer system comprising a 640X480 display for display a window, a pointing device(224) and a keyboard(222) with letter and ten decimal keys(see figures 1, 10, 11; column 5, lines 31-36; column 33, lines 28-37 and column 34, lines 1-7). It would have been obvious to have modified Kikinis et al as modified with the teaching of Martin et al, since Kikinis et al have been disclosed a display resolution could be changed(see column 8, lines 2-8).

(11) Response to Argument

Appellant argues that Kikinis teach a host computer and a portable user interface having

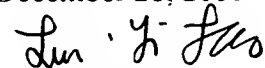
their own processor which does not meet the limitation of a processor-less portable user interface cited in claims 1, 13, 30, 36, 41, 45 and 50 on pages 7-10, 12 and 15-16. However, Kikinis teaches teach a user interface module(10) could be a processor-less portable user interface(**slave unit**) when it docked to a host unit(see figures 3, 5 and column 6, lines 32-38).

Appellant argues that the examiner does not provide a motivation to combine Kikinis and Swafford on pages 11-12. The examiner disagrees with that since Kikinis et al teach a user interface module(10) could be a processor-less portable user interface(slave unit) Swafford has disclosed a processor can be contained in both portable user interface unit(2) and base computer unit(14) or only contained in a base computer unit(14)(see figure 1; column 5, lines 9-12 and column 7, lines 40-46) and since when it docked to a host unit(see figures 3, 5 and column 6, lines 32-38). With Kikinis et al's and Swafford's suggestion, Kikinis et al can only have one processor in Kikinis's base unit(172) so as to simplify the portable user interface unit(see figures 3, 5, 13 and column 6, lines 32-38).

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted.

December 28, 2001



Lun-Yi Lao
Primary Examiner

Appeal Conference:

Richard Hjerpe



RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Ken Chang



KENT CHANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER